

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS.

C o n t e n t s.

RT	I	<u>EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES.</u>	Page.
		Employment December, 1948	160
		Industrial Disputes Year, 1948	162
		Gas and Electricity Consumption .. . December, 1948	162
		Iron and Steel Production .. . Year, 1948	162
		Coal Production .. . Year, 1948	163
		New South Wales Railways December, 1948	163
		Motor Vehicle Registration .. . December, 1948	164
		Port of Sydney .. . December, 1948	164
		Government Trams & Buses .. . December, 1948	161
RT	II	<u>FINANCE AND TRADE.</u>	
		General .. . Year 1948	165
		Nine Trading Banks, Australia and N. S. W. .. . December, 1948	165
		Savings Bank Deposits and Savings Certificates Year, 1948	166
		Commonwealth Bank, Australia .. . Year, 1948	166
		Retail Trade, Sydney .. . November, 1948	167
		Company Registrations, Sydney.. . Year, 1948	167
		New South Wales Accounts .. . December, 1948	168
		Mortgages and Liens .. . Year, 1948	168
		Sydney Stock Exchange .. . January, 1949	168
ART	III	<u>RURAL INDUSTRIES.</u>	
		The Season .. .	169
		Wool .. .	169
		Dairying .. .	170
		Wheat .. .	170
INDEX		Digest of Current Statistics .. . Year 1948	171

(see top page)

PART I : EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIESEMPLOYMENT - New South Wales: (Table 28)

During 1948 employment in New South Wales (other than rural workers and private domestics) increased by 32,000 to 981,400 with the number both of males (710,300) and of females (271,100) greater than ever before. The gain of 3,600, in December, comprised seasonal increases (mainly from scholars and other casual sources) in retail trade (4,400) and in transport and communication (700) offsetting small end-of-the-year decreases in most other fields. The year's increase compared with gains of 125,500 in 1946 and 61,000 in 1947; retardation of the rate of increase in 1948 reflects prior absorption of nearly all demobilised personnel, including a large proportion of re-construction trainees, and smaller numbers of young people reaching working age. Recent gains in employment were due in part to migrants entering the State in increasing numbers, and in smaller measure to postponed retirement or re-entry into employment of retired persons. In part from free migrants displaced persons from Europe numbering 2,643 entered employment in this State in the nine months ended December, 1948. New industrial development has, however, far outrun, (and caused intense competition for,) the number offering for employment.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

(Excluding employers and workers on own account.)

nth	WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT					Men from N.S.W. in Armed Forces
	Rural	Domestics	All other Wage Earners			
	Males	Females (a)	Males	Females	Total	
	T h o u s a n d s					
July	41 (b)	52	530	168	698	6
July	23 (b)	19	541	247	788	224
July	27 (b)	20	625	243	868	44
July	26 (b)		677	253	930	21
December			688	261	949	17
July	31 (b)		702	263	965	14
November			708	270	978	14
December			710	271	981	14

building and construction had the greatest proportional gain in 1948 though the numerical increase (4,600) fell below that in factories (8,300), in transport and communication (5,500) and in retail trade (5,200). Commerce and finance gained 3,600 and professional and personal service industries 2,500, but only 300 more were employed in mining and quarrying.

Distribution of employment over major industrial groups (see proportions at foot of next table) reveal significant changes since before the war. The higher proportion occupied in factories typifies growing industrialisation which doubtless, accounts in part for the higher proportion in transport and communication. There has been a small proportional decline in trade and commerce and personal service industries, but of greater significance, in view of present-day needs, is the appreciably smaller proportion of the work force engaged in mines and quarries and in building and construction compared with the pre-war distribution.

Governmental authorities (Commonwealth, State and local) employed 224,000 persons (189,900 males and 34,100 females) in New South Wales in December, 1948, with 68,100 more than in July, 1939 and 9,700 more than in December, 1947; numbers representing 22.3%, 22.6% and 22.8% of total employees in the respective months. There has been considerable extension of governmental social services and transport and other business undertakings since before the war.

EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES - NEW SOUTH WALES (a)

(Thousands - Males and Females combined)

Month	Factories	Building & Construction	Mining & Quarrying	Transport & Communication	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Professional & Personal Services	Other	TOTAL Wage & Salary Earners(a)
July	218.1	58.4	24.8	81.6	30.0	67.5	105.7	61.8	697.9
July	302.3	34.9	24.9	100.5	67.7	56.7	115.4	85.5	787.9
July	322.8	46.0	25.9	110.2	81.3	72.3	130.3	79.6	868.4
July	341.8	58.0	26.9	115.5	87.5	79.0	140.0	80.9	929.6
December	345.2	58.0	27.5	116.9	94.6	82.2	143.3	81.7	949.4
July	351.0	62.2	28.3	121.2	92.2	82.5	143.7	82.3	963.9
November	354.9	63.3	27.6	121.7	95.4	85.6	145.8	83.5	977.8
December	353.5	62.6	27.8	122.4	99.8	85.8	145.8	83.7	981.4
% of Total									
1939 %	31.25	8.37	3.55	11.69	11.46	9.67	15.15	8.86	100.00
1948 %	36.02	6.38	2.83	12.47	10.17	8.74	14.86	8.53	100.00

(a) Excluding rural workers and female domestics in private households.

Employment of women (excluding rural and private domestic workers) increased 10,300 during 1948 (10,100 during 1947) to 271,100. The gain of 103,100 since July, 1939 includes transfer of about 32,000 from paid household domestic work. Men in factories rose by 32,400 (55%) between 1939 and 1948 (by 3,300 in 1948) and represented 35.3% at the beginning and 33.8% at the end of that period of all men in employment. In that interval female non-factory employees increased by 7,700 (7,000 in 1948) and those added in the last year were spread fairly evenly, in comparison with 1939 there were 9,900 (236%) more in transport and communication, 11,200 (31%) more in retail trade, 16,200 (179%) more in commerce and finance and 31,700 (65%) more in professional and personal services.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN - NEW SOUTH WALES (In thousands)
(Excluding rural employment and domestics in private households)

of Group	1939	1945	1946	1947		1948		
	July	July	July	July	Dec.	July	Nov.	Dec.
Factories	22.2	26.0	30.1	32.2	33.1	33.4	34.4	33.9
Trades	9.2	11.1	10.9	11.6	11.8	11.8	12.1	11.9
Drink, Tob'co	9.3	11.6	10.7	10.6	10.7	10.6	10.9	11.2
Trades	4.8	19.6	13.1	13.6	14.0	14.3	14.7	14.4
Factories	13.8	17.4	18.3	19.0	19.3	19.6	20.4	20.3
Factories	59.3	85.7	83.1	87.0	88.4	89.7	92.5	91.7
rt & Comm'n	4.2	14.5	12.9	12.8	13.3	13.8	14.0	14.1
Trade	36.0	37.5	39.2	40.9	44.3	42.8	44.8	47.2
e & Finance	8.5	21.1	21.1	22.3	23.4	24.5	24.8	24.7
Pers. Services	49.1	69.6	73.3	77.1	78.8	79.2	81.0	80.8
	10.9	18.3	13.4	12.8	12.6	12.7	12.6	12.6
O T A L	168.0	246.7	243.0	252.9	260.8	262.7	269.7	271.1

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES (Sydney & Newcastle)

Following the further increase in fares as from the end of November, 1948 receipts of the metropolitan and Newcastle transport services rose to £805,000 in December, 1948, compared with £674,000 in December, 1947 and a monthly average of £663,000 for July-November, 1948; and the accumulated deficiency on working account was reduced from £115,600 (July-November, 1948) to £37,400. Receipts for the six months totalled £4.13 mill. which includes an amount of £115,000 paid from Consolidated Revenue in respect of fare concessions to school children, pensioners etc. Working expenses for the six months totalled £4.17 mill in 1948, compared with £3.76 mill. in 1947 and £1.85 mill. in 1938. The extension of bus traffic is shown by the proportional increase of bus earnings in total earnings from 21% in 1938 to 28% in 1946 and 40% in 1948 (six months periods).

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.
(Thousand £)

Six Months ended December						Month of December	
Gross Earnings			Working Expenses	Net (a) Working Surplus		Gross Earnings	Working Expenses
Trams	Buses	Total					
1,703	440	2,143	1,846	297		393	323
2,176	866	3,042	3,031	11		526	511
2,703	1,165	3,868	3,760	108		684	679
2,459	1,671	4,130	4,167	37		805	717

(a) Available to meet depreciation and debt charges.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales:

The dispute at the Captain's Flat lead-zinc mine and minor disputes in the coalfields caused the loss of 12,000 man-working days in December, 1948 but only a few short disputes occurred in other industries during that month. Preliminary figures for the year 1948 show that 504,000 man-working days were lost in mines and 258,000 in other industries; the mining figure is the highest since 1945, but losses in other industries were considerably below the average of recent years. These statistics do not measure the proportion of man-working days lost to those worked but some idea of this is gained by comparing trends in employment and in dispute losses. Employment in N.S.W. coal mines rose by 5% (from 16,100 in July, 1939 to an average of 18,700 in 1948) and employment in factories and transport (i.e. the other industries most affected by disputes) by about 57% during this period whereas industrial dispute losses in coal mines in 1948 exceeded the pre-war average by about 6% and disputes in other industries by 55%. This suggests that the ratio of time lost through disputes to time worked was somewhat smaller in 1948 than in pre-war years. (See also par. on coal mining).

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - NEW SOUTH WALES. (Thousand Man-days Lost)

	Mining	Other Employment	Total	Monthly Averages	Mining	Other Employment	Total
	474	170	644	1937-39	40	14	54
	483	328	811	1947	33	61	94
	630	1,249	1,879	1948-April-June	28	6	34
	299	617	916	July-September	32	23	55
	392	735	1,127	October	85	46	131
a)	504	258	762	November	86	37	123
				December	12	3	15

(a) Subject to revision.

GAS & ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION - Sydney.

Gas and electricity consumption in Sydney has increased steadily during and since the war, and in 1948 was 4% above 1947 and 63% above 1939 (in terms of thermal units). The seasonally adjusted index, based on 1937-39=100, rose to 185 in November, 1948 (183 in December) and even when winter restrictions were in force it did not fall below 163. As an example of increased power demands, the Sydney County Council's sales of electricity rose between 1939 and 1947 from 633 mill. kWh to 1,108 mill. kWh, and the daily maximum demand on its system from 187,000 kW to 276,000 kW and probably increased again in 1948. A new mild electricity rationing scheme was introduced as from 3rd February, 1949 to restrict the use of power for domestic purposes and shop-windows for certain periods of the day.

INDEX OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION, SYDNEY

Seasonally Adjusted; Monthly Average 1937-39=100			
Yearly Average	Index	Month	Index
1938-39	104	1948-July	163
1945-46	147	October	178
1946-47	161	November	185
1947-48	174	December	183

COAL, IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION - New South Wales.

Iron and steel production in New South Wales fell off towards the end of 1948 because of coal shortages, and the total for the year (934,700 tons of pig iron and 1,150,100 of steel) was below that for 1947. Local pig iron supplies are supplemented by shipments from Wyalapa, S.A., but production, though above pre-war level, is insufficient to meet the greatly increased demand. Shortages of labour and coal prevented available plant being used to full capacity in 1947-48.

PRODUCTION OF COAL, IRON AND STEEL, New South Wales.
(Thousand tons)

Period	C o a l			Pig Iron		Ingot Steel
	Underground	Open-cut	Total	N.S.W.	Whyalla(a)	
Average						
1939 (b)	10,006	-	10,006	932.7	-	1055.5
1944 (b)	11,284	120 (c)	11,404	1304.0	138.7	1555.5
1945	9,653	523	10,176	960.1	-	1099.3
1946	10,430	756	11,186	924.6	163.2	1277.4
1947	10,724	959	11,683	977.4	206.1	1225.5
1948 (d)	10,467	1,254	11,721	934.7	196.9	1150.1

a) Production in Whyalla, S.A., much of which used in N.S.W. Steelworks; included in averages as from 1941.

b) Average for years ended 30th June for iron and steel production.

c) Open-cut included in averages as from 1943.

d) Subject to revision.

Joint Coal Board figures show that coal output in New South Wales rose from 11.68 mill. tons in 1947 to 11.72 mill. tons in 1948, and that this improvement came solely from open-cut mines which produced 959,000 tons (8% of total) in 1947 and 1,254,000 tons (11% of total) in 1948. Open-cut mines require less manpower per ton of coal raised and have been less affected by industrial disputes than other mines. In underground mines production per manshift worked at the coal face averaged 9.51 tons in 1948 and over all mine workers was 2.92 tons, while the overall rate in open-cut mines was 11.86 tons (comparable figures for earlier years not available). In underground mines 80% of possible man-shifts were worked, 10% lost through disputes, 3% through absenteeism and 7% through other causes (mainly sickness and compensation cases), while in open-cut mines 91% of possible manshifts were worked, 4% lost through disputes, and 5% through other causes.

As shown in the table below the sale of coal to industrial users in this State and exports to other States have increased greatly since the war; Coal exports overseas which amounted to 1 to 2 mill. tons a year in the 1920's (up to 25% of total output) and about 900,000 tons (10% of total output) a year in 1937-39 were only about 260,000 tons (2% of total output, nearly all in bunkers) in 1948.

PRINCIPAL USES OF N.S.W. COAL
(Million tons)

Year	Used in New South Wales			Exports (Cargo & Bunker)	
	Railways	Electricity	Other Industrial	Interstate	Overseas
1938-39	0.99	1.16	3.59	2.27	0.90
1946-47	1.33	1.98	4.17	2.67	0.33
1948	1.49	2.09	4.67	2.86	0.26

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS:

Railway passenger traffic in December, 1948 was a little lighter than in the two previous Decembers although the total for the half year ended December, 1948 (130.6 mill. passenger journeys) was greater than in previous years. Heavy traffic and the rise in fares and freight rates (as from 13th August, 1947) caused an increase in gross earnings for the half year ended December from \$15.29 mill. in 1946 to \$17.87 mill in 1947 and \$19.71 mill. in 1948, but working expenses increased at a faster rate in 1948, and the surplus on working account fell from \$3.04 mill. and \$3.24 mill. to \$2.83 mill. in the respective periods.

Comparing the six months ended December 1948 and 1938: passenger traffic increased by 37% and goods traffic by 27%; gross earnings rose by 104% and working expenses by 138%, leaving a 10% increase in the surplus on working account.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Six Months ended December					Month of December	
Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. livestock)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net (a) Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)
Millions	mill. tons	£mill.	£mill.	£mill.	millions	mill. tons
95.4	7.05	9.65	7.08	2.57	15.9	1.45
129.2	8.57	15.29	12.25	3.04	22.3	1.19
130.4	9.07	17.87	14.63	3.24	22.0	1.46
130.6	8.94	19.71	16.88	2.83	21.4	1.45

cess of gross earnings over working expenses; excluding Government contribution £800,000 for developmental lines.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS - NEW SOUTH WALES.

There was a record number of cars (225,400) and of commercial vehicles (10,002) on the State register at the end of 1948. The post-war rise in the rate of car registrations accelerated in 1943 and reached 2,000 a month in the latter part of the year, mainly due to increased deliveries of British cars. The total for 1948 was 21,602, or slightly less than for 1937-38 and 77% above 1947. The United Kingdom supplied about 70% of new cars in 1948, compared with 50% in 1947 and 60% to 40% in 1936-39.

Registrations of new commercial vehicles reached the record figure of 10,875 (10,002 lorries and utilities, 154 vans and 719 road tractors); about a quarter of these came from the United Kingdom and the balance from America. At the end of the year 138,600 commercial vehicles were on the State register, equivalent to 25% of all motor vehicles, compared with 72,400 or 25% of the total in 1938.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Period.	NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED			CIVILIAN VEHICLES ON REGISTER (a)		
	Cars	Lorries (b)	Total	Cars	Lorries (b)	Total
-1938 (Yearly Average)				000	000	000
1945	22,331	9,689	32,020	212.0	72.4	284.4
1946	253	2,365	2,618	188.4	90.5	278.9
1947	3,841	5,246	9,087	195.4	103.8	304.2
1948	12,212	7,966	20,178	205.9	124.5	330.4
1948	21,602	10,375	32,477	225.4	138.6	364.0

(a) At end of year. (b) Including utilities, vans and road tractors.

PORT OF SYDNEY.

Outward overseas cargo shipped from Sydney rose from 622,000 tons in the half ended December, 1947 to 1,150,000 tons in the same period of 1948 because of greatly increased shipments of wheat, flour and wool which ordinarily make up about two-thirds of total exports. Inward overseas cargo tonnage was maintained at the level of 1947. Trade from and to Australian ports is still well below pre-war.

Less coal was sent from State ports to Sydney in 1948, and the reduction in imports from other States reflected the considerable and very unusual import of wheat in 1947.

SHIPPING CARGO IN THE PORT OF SYDNEY - in thousand tons.

Period	OVERSEA.	INTERSTATE.	INTRA STATE	TOTAL
Inward Cargo				
Year 1938-39	2,045	1,187	1,896	5,128
1944-45	2,740	1,435	1,625	5,800
1946-47	2,086	1,079	1,710	4,875
1947-48	2,431	1,045	1,839	5,315
1948, July-December	1,271	584	1,035	2,890
1947, July-December	1,263	521	864	2,648
Outward Cargo				
Year 1938-39	1,429	798	340	2,567
1944-45	2,428	602	177	3,207
1946-47	1,965	482	158	2,605
1947-48	1,719	512	141	2,372
1948, July-December	1,150	279	59	1,488
1947, July-December	1,150	279	59	1,488

PART II: FINANCE AND TRADEGENERAL:

The principal feature of monetary and banking movements in Australia in the year 1948 was the continuing monetary expansion. Trading bank deposits rose by £120 million, savings bank deposits by £26 million and there was an unusually heavy demand for notes at Christmas time. The expansion was due mainly to the inflow of funds from overseas; 'Gold and Oversea Balances' held by the Central Bank rose by £173 million, and trading banks also appear to hold larger overseas funds, stemming chiefly from the large export surplus (£111 million for the eleven months ended November, 1948) and from an inflow of overseas capital for investment. The growth of trading bank advances which was one of the main causes of expansion during the earlier postwar period slowed down in 1948; the increase of £36 million over the year was only half that of 1947. Accumulation of Government surplus has tended to counter inflationary pressure. The Commonwealth reduced its short-term debt (Treasury bills) by £70 million in 1948 and increased its credit balance with the Commonwealth Bank substantially. The post-war advance in internal trade turnovers slowed down during the year; the increase in the value of retail turnovers did not greatly exceed the rise in price levels and the value of real estate registrations was only slightly above 1947. Stock exchange prices receded from the very high levels reached in 1947 but remain about 50% above pre-war. Details of these movements are shown in the following sections

TRADING BANKS:

Australia: Rapid expansion of deposits has characterised recent bank movements. Deposits with the principal trading banks in Australia rose by £101 million to £739 million between August and December, 1948, compared with increases in these months of £40 million in 1947 and of £10 million to £12 million in pre-war years. The current expansion in deposits seems to be due mostly to exceptionally high export proceeds and to capital inflow from overseas. The Central Bank's holdings of gold and overseas funds rose by £76 million in the four months. Trading bank holdings of overseas funds are not published but a fall of £22 million in total trading bank assets in Australia (net of liabilities) during the four months suggests that their assets overseas increased correspondingly.

The early post-war growth of advances has slackened and the seasonal rise in August-December, 1948 (£10 million) was much smaller than in 1946 and 1947. About a third of the rise in deposits during the four months was redeposited on Special Account with the Commonwealth Bank, making the total equivalent to 39% of total customers deposits in December 1947 and 1948. During the four months of 1948 the trading banks also increased their holdings of Treasury bills (by £13 million) and their cash (by £4 million), and reduced balances due to other banks (mainly Commonwealth Bank advances granted to certain banks) by £10 million.

NINE TRADING BANKS - Business within Australia.

(Weekly Averages - £ million)

Month	Deposits at credit of Customers	Balances due to Other Banks	Advances to Customers	Public Securities	Special A/c. with C'wth. Bank	Treas-ury Bills	Cash Items	Ratios to Deposits: Advances	Special Account
								%	%
December	319	1	287	19	-	20	36	90	-
December	606	1	209	116	230	67	42	35	38
December	635	2	261	91	263	25	42	41	42
August	629	3	308	76	240	11	41	49	38
November	659	6	333	66	249	14	42	51	38
December	669	11	336	62	259	11	44	50	39
August	688	36	362	60	272	12	46	53	40
November	764	25	374	60	287	29	49	49	38
December	789	26	372	61	305	30	50	47	39

New South Wales: Trading bank deposits in this State rose under war influences from £113 million in 1938 to £224 million in 1945 (December quarters) while advances were reduced by £35 million. In 1946-47 advances increased by £50 million and deposits by £24 million. Under the influence of high export returns deposits rose by a further £40 million to £238 million in 1948 and advances reached £150 million.

NINE TRADING BANKS - DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

	Weekly Averages - December Quarters - £ million					
	1938	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Deposits	113	213	224	242	243	238
Advances	120	84	85	103	135	150

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (New South Wales):

Seasonal withdrawals from savings accounts in December, 1948 were heavy but the upward movement in new deposits continued and the net fall in savings balances during the month (£110,000) was less than in December, 1947 or 1946. During the year 1948 new deposits exceeded withdrawals by £2.87 million (plus £3.81 million interest credited), compared with an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £8.83 million during the previous eighteen months. Savings bank balances at the end of December, 1948 totalled £237.92 million in New South Wales and £688 million in the whole of Australia.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (£ million)

Period	New South Wales				Total Deposits at end of Period	
	Deposits lodged	Withdrawals made	Net Increase (+) or decrease (-)	Interest added	N.S.W.	Australia
Jan.-June	not available		-0.7	1.6	87.5	245.6
July-Dec.	90.8	69.4	+21.4	-	219.6	622.6
Jan.-June	100.5	87.4	+13.1	3.6	236.3	663.6
July-Dec.	84.2	89.2	-5.0	-	231.3	653.8
Jan.-June	75.0	78.7	-3.7	3.8	231.4	660.0
July-Dec.	82.8	82.9	-0.1	-	231.3	661.9
Jan.-June	78.2	76.3	+ 1.9	3.8	237.0	681.3
July-Dec.	85.3	84.4	+ 0.9	-	237.9	688.4

During the past three years savings bank balances in Australia increased at a rate considerably greater than in New South Wales. However, net sales of savings certificates in this State exceeded that of other States, and, taking these two forms of saving together, the share of New South Wales in the total has not changed appreciably; it was 35.7% in 1939 and 35.2% in 1945 and 1948. The issue of Savings Certificates was discontinued as from 1st February, 1949.

Year	SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS			SAVINGS CERTIFICATES(1)			T O T A L		
	N.S.W.	Austral- ia	Prop'n in N.S.W.	N.S.W.	Austra- lia	Prop'n in N.S.W.	N.S.W.	Austra- lia	Prop'n in N.S.W.
	£mill.	£mill.	%	£mill.	£mill.	%	£mill.	£mill.	%
	86	242	35.7	-	-	-	86	242	35.7
	215	612	35.1	20	54	36.4	235	666	35.2
	232	663	35.0	24	63	38.9	256	726	35.3
	238	688	34.6	27	65	41.7	265	753	35.2

total War Savings and Savings Certificates issued less redemptions.

COMMONWEALTH BANK - Central Banking Business - Australia:

Central bank figures for 1948 showed an extraordinary rise in gold and overseas funds from £178 million to £351 million, due to the excess of export returns and capital inflow over imports and overseas payments. (The fall to £339 million in January, 1949 was caused by loan redemptions and payment of the £10 million gift to the United Kingdom). The increase in overseas reserves during 1948 caused a corresponding rise in trading bank deposits, of which £56 million were absorbed on Special Account with the Commonwealth Bank. The accumulation of Government surplus funds has also partly counteracted the inflationary effect of the inflow of money into Australia. Government balances with the Central Bank are included in 'other liabilities' which rose by £24 m. during the year, and the fall of £108 million in Central Bank holdings of Government securities reflects the retirement of Treasury bills and other securities.

Heavy spending and rising prices have increased the demand for notes. An extra £18 million were issued for the 1948 Christmas season compared with £12 million in 1947, and the note issue at the end of January, 1949 - was £ 85 million higher than a year previously and compares with about £50 million in 1938-39. An increase in other assets from £6 million in August, 1947 to £44 million in August, 1948 appeared to be due to advances to certain trading banks; this item was reduced by the end of January, 1949 to £35 million.

COMMONWEALTH BANK - CENTRAL BANKING BUSINESS, Including Note Issue.
(£ millions)

Week of th	Notes on Issue held by		Trading Banks		Other Liabilities (a)	Gold and Balances abroad	Gov't. and other securities	Other Assets (b)
	Public	Banks	Special A/C.	Other Dep's.				
August	169	16	223	25	138	161	407	7
September	180	20	234	33	139	177	426	9
August	181	17	254	24	130	216	390	3
September	185	23	268	29	109	224	386	6
August	185	21	238	27	121	174	412	6
September	180	25	263	30	159	178	466	15
August	173	23	270	29	181	266	372	41
September	188	29	319	22	183	351	358	36
January	202		326	33	161	339	351	35

including capital and reserve funds. (b) Excluding coins and bills held.

RETAIL TRADE (Large Sydney Stores):

The value of retail sales recorded by large Sydney stores during the eleven months ended November, was 17% higher in 1948 than in 1947. The rate of increase for 1948 over 1947 slowed down from an average of about 20% in January-August to 2% and 1% in September and October but reached 20% again in November. This irregular movement is partly due to exceptionally high sales in September-October 1947. However, there are signs of less rapid growth in the physical volume of sales, as recent rises in sales value are not much in excess of price rises. The clothing price index, which is representative of a large section of retail turn-overs, rose by 15% between September quarter 1947 and 1948 - about the same as the rise in retail sales values during that period.

RETAIL TRADE - LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase on same period of previous year

Month	VALUE OF SALES			Month	VALUE OF STOCKS		
	1946	1947	1948		1946	1947	1948
	%	%	%		%	%	%
July	26	12	30	July	1	29	19
August	45	17	19	August	8	33	17
September	32	41	2	September	12	29	17
October	28	23	4	October	21	25	16
November	14	9	20	November	29	28	14
For eleven months ended November	+32	+19	+17	For eleven months ended November	+1	+33	+22

Stock values in January-November 1948 were on the average about 22% higher than in January-November 1947; this reflects a slight decline in the absolute increase per annum in the value of stocks held. A survey of physical stocks in all States showed that the position improved in 1947-48 although in many lines traders still held less than half their normal pre-war stocks. Stocks of rayon goods, sheets and towels and some other cotton goods increased considerably in the last quarter of 1948.

COMPANY REGISTRATIONS - New South Wales:

Industrial expansion is reflected in the large number of new companies and of capital increases recorded in this State. In the year 1948, 1,544 new proprietary companies and 39 new public companies were registered with a nominal capital totalling £48.1 million, and 296 existing companies raised their nominal capital by a total of £30.4 million. At the end of the year 13,205 local companies and 1,462 foreign companies were operating in New South Wales, compared with 8,639 and 1,123 at the end of 1939.

REGISTRATIONS OF LIMITED COMPANIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES (2)						COMPANIES OPERATING IN N.S.W. (1)	
New Registrations			Increases of Capital			Local Foreign	
Public		Proprietary				No.	No.
No.	Nom. Capital £ million	No.	Nom. Capital £ million	No.	Nom. Capital £ million		
34	3.27	811	12.84	99	5.93	8,639	1,123
12	1.04	223	6.71	63	2.48	8,733	1,220
14	2.43	1,535	21.93	169	7.22	10,235	1,275
20	2.48	1,601	34.07	296	23.16	11,800	1,357
39	11.60	1,544	36.52	296	30.44	13,205	1,462

as at end of year for number of companies operating.

excluding a small number of companies limited by guarantee.

Share issues by new and existing companies offered for public subscription in Australia (as compiled by the Sydney Morning Herald) rose from yearly average of about £6 million in 1937-39 to £22 million in 1947 and 39 million in 1948. Most of these issues were made by manufacturing concerns.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS:

State revenue for the six months ended December totalled £45.07 million in 1948 or £4.86 million more than in 1947 - principal increases being in commonwealth tax reimbursements (£1.39 million), tax revenue (£610,000) and railways (£2.14 million), the latter being offset by a rise of £2.38 million in railway expenditure. Increased fares resulted in a surplus of £20,000 for the six months on tram and bus account. Departmental appropriations were higher by about £2.11 million. Total expenditure for the six months of 1948 (£45.90 mill.) exceeded revenue by £835,000 compared with £704,000 in the 1947 period. The 1948-49 budget provides for a surplus of £94,000. Tax reimbursements will be larger in the second half of the financial year, but expenditure of departments and business undertakings is rising and also may require more.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS (£ millions)

Revenue				Expenditure			
Item	Actual 6 mths ended Dec.		Estimate Year 1948-49	Item	Actual 6 mths ended Dec.		Estimate Year 1948-49
	1947	1948			1947	1948	
	1947	1948			1947	1948	
Commonwealth(1)	9.5	10.9	26.9	Net Debt Charges	7.3	7.7	15.6
Taxation	4.5	5.1	9.6	Other ex" "			
Governmental	4.0	4.5	9.7	Governmental	14.6	16.7	36.8
Trams	17.6	19.8	38.6	Railways	14.7	17.1	33.0
Bus Services	3.9	4.0	9.0	Tram & Bus Serv.	3.9	4.0	8.8
Harbour	0.7	0.8	1.4	Sydney Harbour	0.4	0.4	0.9
REVENUE	40.2	45.1	95.2	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	40.9	45.9	95.1

Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interest, hospital benefits & controls administration.

REGISTRATION OF MORTGAGES - New South Wales

Good seasons and record prices have improved the financial position of primary producers and reduced their credit requirements. The registered value of new first mortgages on real estate in New South Wales rose from a pre-war average of £23.77 mill. a year to £31.46 mill. in 1948, solely due to the rise in loans on urban property; new first mortgages on rural securities, as shown in mortgage instruments, in 1948 (£4.58 mill.) were actually below the pre-war figure. Higher prices caused a rise in livestock mortgage values from £1.80 mill (1936-38 average) to £2.54 mill. in 1948, although fewer sheep were mortgaged. The number of sheep and crops given as security for liens was reduced to less than a third of the pre-war average.

MORTGAGE REGISTRATIONS - New South Wales

Yearly Av. or Year	M o r t g a g e s				L i e n s			
	ON REAL ESTATE		ON LIVESTOCK		ON WOOL		ON CROPS	
	Total	Rural Pty.(1)	Sheep	Value (2)	Sheep	Value	No.	Value
	£mill.	£mill.	mill.	£mill.	mill.	£mill.		£mill.
1936-38	23.77	5.26	5.18	1.80	7.36	2.98	4268	1.74
1946	21.38	3.96	2.49	1.20	2.99	1.54	1558	0.68
1947	26.00	4.31	2.44	1.69	2.62	1.89	1797	0.79
1948	31.46	4.58	2.61	2.54	2.43	2.28	969	0.41

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

The Sydney Stock Exchange opened in January with a strong upward trend in prices of investment shares but the demand eased toward the middle of the month and the gain in prices was not held. The index for industrial shares rose from 351.7 in December, 1948 to 354.8 in January, and pastoral finance and insurance shares also showed notable advances. Bidding for retail shares weakened after the announcement of cuts on profit margins for softgoods. The total index for 75 shares, 259.5, remained practically the same as in December, that is 4.5% below the peak reached in January, 1948 but still about 50% above pre-war.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY - Par value = 100

Month	Manufact'g & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
Aug.	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
Dec.	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
Dec.	355.4	318.8	189.8	183.4	404.4	268.7	280.4
Jan.	361.4	315.5	184.7	191.7	407.8	271.5	283.7
Dec.	351.7	301.0	172.6	180.6	431.0	259.4	268.2
Jan.	354.8	295.7	172.5	182.2	438.5	259.5	269.7

PART III - RURAL INDUSTRIES.THE SEASON:

The average rainfall for the year 1948 in the main agricultural and grazing districts of the State was fairly close to the long-term averages. In part of the Western Division, the Riverina, South-West Slopes and Metropolitan and Illawarra districts rainfall was 8% to 18% below normal, and in other districts was little above average. In wheat areas good rain fell during sowing in May and June; a comparatively dry and cold winter retarded growth, especially in the Riverina, but falls in October-November revived the crops. Fine weather prevailed for harvesting, and timely falls at the turn of the year have favoured preparation for the next crop. Pastoral districts enjoyed a good season during the first half of 1948; conditions were less favourable during the winter but improved again after good rains in September and again in December-January. Stock and pastures are in satisfactory condition. North Coast dairy districts suffered from floods in June but insufficient rainfall in all coastal dairying areas later in the year caused a deterioration in pastures and dairy output until relieved by the recent State-wide falls.

RAINFALL INDEX - NEW SOUTH WALES

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall = 100 for each month

	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Coastal Dairying Dist.			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total
Mar	77	68	101	87	83	62	69	102	83	84	89	80	85
Apr	126	131	119	145	127	118	130	124	125	118	109	96	113
May	102	103	99	92	101	98	100	96	97	106	95	96	102
June	27	14	119	55	64	26	49	110	84	6	20	81	19
July	81	65	98	49	75	74	61	102	88	96	46	60	78
Aug	96	71	126	106	100	111	79	123	110	63	72	98	70
Sept	95	83	55	41	73	111	78	52	66	83	147	126	105

Northern; C. Central; S. Southern; W. Western.

100 L:

Shearing in New South Wales during the current season has progressed well and deliveries of wool in New South Wales stores for the six months ended December, 1948 totalled 991,000 bales, or 163,000 bales more than for the same period of 1947. Sales proceeded as scheduled and clearances in the half year totalled 551,000 bales in 1948, compared with 502,000 bales in 1947 and 473,000 in 1946. At the end of December 455,000 bales remained unsold in store.

RECEIVALS, DISPOSALS AND STOCKS OF WOOL

(N.S.W. Stores excl. Albury - Thousand Bales)

	1948			1947
	Sydney	Newcastle & Goulburn	Total N.S.W.	Total N.S.W.
Carry-over from June	14	1	15	41
Receipts, July to December	796	195	991	828
Total	810	196	1,006	869
Disposals, July to December	442	109	551	502
Balance in Store at end of December	368	87	455	367

Sales in Australia up to the end of December, 1948 totalled 1.42 million bales (1.34 million bales in 1947), realizing £85 million (£62 million in 1947); this represents an overall increase of about a third in the average price per bale. In addition, 222,000 bales yielding £8 million were sold by the Wool Realization Commission. A recent estimate puts the Australian 1948-49 clip at 3.22 million bales, or 150,000 bales more than in 1947-48 but still below the average of 3.39 million bales for the ten preceding years.

Wool purchases by Australian manufacturers on which subsidy was claimed (as compiled by the Australian Wool Realization Commission) totalled 348,000 bales in 1946-47, or 12.9% of wool sold, and 347,000 bales in 1947-48 or 12.1% of wool sold. About half the 1947-48 purchases was wool of 64's to 60/58's quality counts.

Wool exports for the three months ended November, 1948 (the first three months of auctions) were 292 million lbs greasy (including scoured, tops, noils etc. converted to greasy basis), valued at £46 million, compared with 241 million lbs valued at £29 million for the corresponding period of 1947. The United Kingdom remained the chief destination although the quantity (100 mill. lbs) was less than in 1947 or 1938. Shipments to France and Italy increased considerably. The United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Italy accounted for over 80% of exports in the 1938 and 1948 periods. United States purchases have receded from the high war-time level but in 1948 were still well above 1938. Exports to Germany and Japan are now only a fraction of pre-war. Exports to the U.S.S.R. for the three months of 1948 totalled 4½ million lbs. valued at £880,000.

WOOL EXPORTS - AUSTRALIA - Three Months ended November

Destination	Quantity (as in Grease)			Value		
	1938	1947	1948	1938	1947	1948
	million lbs.			£ million		
United Kingdom	134	114	100	5.93	12.79	14.32
France	75	34	87	3.04	3.32	14.02
Belgium	35	31	26	1.46	3.29	3.30
Italy	4	9	27	.23	.97	4.40
United States	5	32	13	.28	5.58	2.85
Other Countries	48	21	39	2.27	3.38	6.42
Total	304	241	292	13.21	29.33	45.81

DAIRYING:

Dry conditions prevailed in dairying districts during the December quarter and caused a worse than seasonal deterioration in pastures with a consequent decline in dairy output. Recent heavy falls, however, have initiated a recovery and improved prospects. Butter output for the six months ended December, 1948 was 33.84 million lbs, that is about equal to output in the same period of 1947 but well below the average of pre-war years.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, New South Wales.
(in million lbs.)

Period	Average 3 years		1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	1937-38 to 1939-40	1943-44 to 1945-46			
July to December	54.22	38.65	24.54	33.88	33.84
January to June	59.71	39.31	35.84	42.19	
Year	113.93	77.96	60.38	76.07	

Supplies to the Milk Board in Sydney in 1948 (48.6 million gallons) and Newcastle (4 million gallons) were maintained at the high level of 1947. In spite of the dry season supplies in December were sufficient to meet the demand.

MILK SUPPLIES TO MILK BOARD (Million Gallons)

Milk and Equivalent	Year			Four weeks ended			
	1946	1947	1948	1947-48	1948-49		
Coast Cream				Dec. 11	Jan. 8	Dec. 9	Jan. 6
Sydney	47.47	48.44	48.59	3.84	3.62	3.93	3.78
Newcastle	3.85	4.16	4.03	.32	.32	.32	.32

WHEAT:

The State Statistician now estimates the 1948-49 wheat crop in this State at 66 mill. bushels. That falls about one-third below last year's record crop but is considerably above the average harvest of approx. 50 mill. bushels in recent years. Only in 1915-16, 1932-33, 1939-40 and 1947-48 did the State crop exceed 66 mill. bushels. The average yield of 15.4 bushels per acre in 1948-49 also was relatively high. Only a comparatively small area was sown to wheat in 1948-49 and the crop of 200,000 tons of hay is below average. Oversea exports from this State in the twelve months ended November, 1948 were equivalent to 55 mill. bushels.

WHEAT - AREA, PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS - New South Wales

Year	Area under Wheat				Wheat Grain		Yield Oversea Exports from	
	Grain	Hay	Feed-off	Total	Total	Per Acre	Hay	Wheat & Flour(a)
	million acres				m.bush.	bushels	000 tons	mill. bushels
1938-46	3.72	0.34	0.05	4.11	48.46	13.2	360	17.03
1946-47	4.47	0.26	0.04	4.77	15.63	3.5	145	7.15
1947-48	5.04	0.28	0.03	5.35	95.23	18.9	414	54.63
1948-49(b)	4.28	0.19	0.10	4.57	66.00	15.4	200	n.a.

(a) Wheat equivalent; year ended 30th November following harvest.

Subject to revision.